

OECD Program for International Student Assessment 2009



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SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

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U.S. participation in this study is sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), U.S. Department of Education. The information you provide about you and your school will be used for statistical purposes only. Your responses will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed in identifiable form. By law, everyone working on this NCES survey is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY information that could identify you.

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Core B Consortium

Cito Institute for Educational Measurement

University of Twente

University of Jyväskyla, Institute for Educational Research

Direction de l'Evaluation de la Prospective et de la Performance (DEPP)

This questionnaire asks for information including:

- The structure and organization of the school;
- The student body and teachers;
- The school's resources;
- The school's instruction, curriculum and assessment;
- The school climate;
- The school policies and practices;
- The characteristics of the principal or designee.

This information helps illustrate the similarities and differences between groups of schools in order to better establish the context for students' test results.

The questionnaire should be completed by the principal or designee. It should take about 30 minutes to complete.

For some questions, specific expertise may be needed. You may consult experts to help you answer these questions.

If you do not know an answer precisely, your best estimate will be adequate for the purposes of the study.

Some questions ask about 10th grade or 10th graders. If you do not have a 10th grade in your school, then answer these questions for the grade in your school that contains the most 15-year-olds.

Your answers will be kept confidential. They will be combined with answers from other principals to calculate totals and averages in which no one school can be identified.

SECTION A: THE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOOL

Q1 Do you have the following grade levels in your school?

		Yes	No
a)	Grade 1		
b)	Grade 2		
c)	Grade 3		
d)	Grade 4		
e)	Grade 5		
f)	Grade 6		
g)	Grade 7		
h)	Grade 8		
i)	Grade 9		
j)	Grade 10		
k)	Grade 11		
1)	Grade 12		
m)	Ungraded school		

Q2	Is your school a public or a private school?	
	(Please check only one box)	
	A public school	
	A private school	
Q3	About what percentage of your total funding for a typic school year comes from the following sources?	cal
	(Please write a number in each row. Write θ (zero) if no funfrom that source.)	ding comes
		%
	a) Government (includes local, state and federal)	
	b) Tuition, student fees, or school charges paid by parents	
	c) Benefactors, donations, bequests, sponsorships, parent fundraising	
	d) Other	
	Total	100%

Q4 Which of the following definitions best describes the community in which your school is located? (*Please check only one box*) A village, hamlet or rural area (fewer than 3,000 people) \bigsqcup_{1} A small town (3,000 to about 15,000 people) A town (15,000 to about 100,000 people) A city (100,000 to about 1,000,000 people) A large city (with over 1,000,000 people) Q5a We are interested in the options parents have when choosing a school for their children. Which of the following statements best describes the schooling available to students in your location? (*Please check only one box*) There are two or more other schools in this area that compete for our students. There is one other school in this area that competes for our students. There are no other schools in this area that compete for our students. Q5b Other than your school, how many public and private schools in this area compete for your students? (Please write a number in each line. Write 0 (zero) if there are none.) a) Number of public schools: b) Number of private schools:

SECTION B: THE STUDENT BODY AND TEACHERS

		(Please write a number in each line. Write 0 (zero) if	there are	none.)
	a)	Number of boys:		,
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	b)	Number of girls:		
Q7		About what percentage of students in your s	chool rep	eated a
		grade, at these levels, last academic year?		
		grado, ao arece io reio, ideo de dade area y car i		
		(Please write a number in each row. Write 0 (zero) grade. Check the 'not available' box if the level of school.)	•	•
		(Please write a number in each row. Write 0 (zero) grade. Check the 'not available' box if the level of	•	•
	a)	(Please write a number in each row. Write 0 (zero) grade. Check the 'not available' box if the level of school.) The approximate percentage of students repeating a grade at the middle/junior high school level (grades 7-9) in this	loes not e	xist in you Level not ayailable in
	a)	(Please write a number in each row. Write 0 (zero) grade. Check the 'not available' box if the level of school.) The approximate percentage of students repeating a grade	loes not e	xist in you Level not ayailable in
		(Please write a number in each row. Write 0 (zero) grade. Check the 'not available' box if the level of school.) The approximate percentage of students repeating a grade at the middle/junior high school level (grades 7-9) in this	loes not e	xist in you Level not ayailable in

Q8 About how many students in the 10th grade in your school have a first language that is not English?

Q9

	(Please check only one box)			
	60% or more			
	40% or more but less than 60%			
	20% or more but less than 40%	\square_3		
	10% or more but less than 20%	\square_4		
	More than 0%, but less than 10%			
	None			
	How many of the following teach school?	ers are on the	staff of	your
	school? Include both full-time and part-time teachers. A	full-time teacher is e	employed at le	east 90% of
	the time as a teacher for the full school year. All o	other teachers should	d be considere	ed part-time.
	(Please write a number in each space none.)	provided. Write	0 (zero) if	there are
			Full-time	Part-time
a)	Teachers in TOTAL			
b)	Teachers fully certified by the state in the main field	n assignment		
c)	Teachers with at least a bachelor's degree			

SECTION C: THE SCHOOL'S RESOURCES

The goal of the following set of four questions is to gather information about the student-computer ratio for students in the 10th grade at your school.

		Number
Q10a	At your school, what is the total number of students in the 10th grade?	
Q10b	Approximately, how many computers are available for these students for educational purposes?	
Q10c	Approximately, how many of the computers listed in Question 10b are connected to the Internet/World Wide Web?	
Q10d	Approximately, how many computers are available for <u>all students</u> in your school for educational purposes?	

Q11 Is your school's capacity to provide instruction hindered by any of the following issues?

		Not at all	Very little	To some extent	A lo
a)	A lack of qualified science teachers			$\square_{_{3}}$	
b)	A lack of qualified mathematics teachers			$\square_{_{3}}$	
c)	A lack of qualified English teachers			$\square_{_{3}}$	
d)	A lack of qualified teachers of other subjects			$\square_{_3}$	
e)	A lack of library staff			$\square_{_{3}}$	
f)	A lack of other support personnel			\square_3	
g)	Shortage or inadequacy of science laboratory equipment			\square_3	
h)	Shortage or inadequacy of instructional materials (e.g., textbooks)			\square_3	
i)	Shortage or inadequacy of computers for instruction			\square_3	
j)	Lack or inadequacy of Internet connectivity			\square_3	
k)	Shortage or inadequacy of computer software for instruction				
1)	Shortage or inadequacy of library materials			\square_3	
m)	Shortage or inadequacy of audio-visual resources				

SECTION D: SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

Some schools organize instruction differently for students with different abilities. What is your school's policy about this for students in the 10th grade?

	For all subjects	For some subjects	Not for any subject
 a) Students are grouped by ability into different classes. 			\square_3
b) Students are grouped by ability within their classes.			

Q13 In this academic year, which of the following activities does your school offer to students in the 10th grade?

		Yes	No
a)	Band, orchestra or choir		
b)	School play or school musical		
c)	School yearbook, newspaper or magazine		
d)	Volunteer or service activities		
e)	Book club		
f)	Debate club or debating activities		
g)	School club or school competition for foreign language, mathematics or science		
h)	Academic club (e.g., honor society)		
i)	Art club or art activities		
j)	Sports team or sports activities		
k)	Lectures and/or seminars (e.g., guest speakers such as writers or journalists)		
1)	Collaboration with local libraries		
m)	Collaboration with local newspapers		
n)	School-wide scheduled reading periods		

Q14 Does your school offer any of the following options to students in the 10th grade whose first language is not English?

		Yes	No
a)	These students attend regular classes and receive additional periods of instruction aimed at developing English skills (e.g., reading literacy, grammar, vocabulary, communication).		
b)	Before transferring to regular classes, these students attend a preparatory program aimed at developing English skills (e.g., reading literacy, grammar, vocabulary, communication).		
c)	Before transferring to regular classes, these students receive some instruction in school subjects through their first language.		
d)	These students receive significant amounts of instruction in their first language aimed at developing proficiency in both languages.		
e)	Class size is reduced to cater to the special needs of these students.		

Q15 Generally, in your school, how often are students in the 10th grade assessed using the following methods?

	Never	times a	3 – 5 times a year	Monthly	More than once a month
a) Standardized tests		$\square_{_2}$	$\square_{_3}$	\square_4	
b) Teacher-developed tests			\square_3		
c) Teachers' judgmental ratings					
d) Student portfolios			\square_3	\Box_4	
e) Student assignments/ projects/homework					

Q16 In your school, are assessments of students in the 10th grade used for any of the following purposes?

		Yes	No
a)	To inform parents about their child's progress		
b)	To make decisions about students' retention or promotion		\square_2
c)	To group students for instructional purposes		
d)	To compare the school to district, state, or national performance		
e)	To monitor the school's progress from year to year		
f)	To make judgments about teachers' effectiveness		
g)	To identify aspects of instruction or the curriculum that could be improved		
h)	To compare the school with other schools		

SECTION E: SCHOOL CLIMATE

Q17 In your school, to what extent is the learning of students hindered by the following phenomena?

		Not at all	Very little	To some extent	$_{lot}^{A}$
a)	Teachers' low expectations of students				\Box_4
b)	Student absenteeism			\square_3	\square_4
c)	Poor student-teacher relations			\square_3	
d)	Disruption of classes by students			\square_3	
e)	Teachers not meeting individual students' needs			$\square_{_3}$	
f)	Teacher absenteeism			$\square_{_3}$	\square_4
g)	Students skipping classes				
h)	Students lacking respect for teachers				
i)	Staff resisting change			\square_3	
j)	Student use of alcohol or illegal drugs			\square_3	
k)	Teachers being too strict with students				
1)	Students intimidating or bullying other students			$\square_{_3}$	
m)	Students not being encouraged to achieve their full potential				

Q18 Which statement below best characterizes parental expectations towards your school?

(Please check only one box)	
There is <i>constant pressure</i> from many parents, who expect our school to set very high academic standards and to have our students achieve them.	
Pressure on the school to achieve higher academic standards among students comes from a <i>minority of parents</i> .	
Pressure from parents on the school to achieve higher academic standards among students is <i>largely absent</i> .	

SECTION F: SCHOOL POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Q19 How often are the following factors considered when students are admitted to your school?

	Never	Sometimes	Always
a) Residence in a particular area			$\square_{_3}$
b) Student's record of academic performance (including placement tests)			\square_3
c) Recommendation of feeder schools			$\square_{_3}$
d) Parents' endorsement of the instructional or religious philosophy of the school			
e) Whether the student requires, or is interested in, a special program			
f) Preference given to family members of current or former students			\square_3
g) Other			

Q20 In your school, how likely is it that a student in the 10th grade would be transferred to another school because of the following reasons?

(Please check one box in each row)

Q21

	If students are never transferred, go to	Q21.			
		Not likely	Likely	Very	likely
a)	Low academic achievement			[
b)	High academic achievement				
c)	Behavioral problems			[
d)	Special learning needs			$\square_{_3}$	
e)	Parents' or guardians' request			$\square_{_{3}}$	
f)	Other			\square_3	
	This set of questions explores as accountability to parents. (Please check one box in each row)	spects of th	ne school'	s	
				Yes	No
a)	a) Does your school provide information to parents of students in the 10th grade on their child's academic performance relative to other students in the 10th grade in your school?				
b)	b) Does your school provide information to parents of students in the 10th grade on their child's academic performance relative to national or state benchmarks?				
c)	c) Does your school provide information to parents on the academic performance of students in the 10th grade as a group relative to students in the same grade in other schools?				

In your school, are achievement data used in any of the **Q22** following ways?

Achievement data include aggregated school or grade-level test scores or

	grades, or graduation rates.		g. am. cover				
	(Please check one box in each row)						
				Yes	No		
	a) Achievement data are posted publicly (e.g.,	in the me	dia).		$\square_{_2}$		
	b) Achievement data are used in evaluation of performance.	the princi	pal's				
	c) Achievement data are used in evaluation of	Achievement data are used in evaluation of teachers' performances.					
	d) Achievement data are used in decisions abo allocation to the school.						
	e) Achievement data are tracked over time by an administrative authority (such as a district, state, or federal education agency).						
Q23	During the last year, have any of been used to monitor the practic your school?		_				
	(Please check one box in each row)						
		Yes	No				
	a) Tests or assessments of student achievement						
	b) Teacher peer review (of lesson plans, assessment instruments, lessons)						
	c) Principal or senior staff observations of lessons						
	d) Observation of classes by other persons external to the school						

Q24 Regarding your school, who has a considerable responsibility for the following tasks?

(Please check as many boxes as appropriate in each row)

	Principals	Teachers	School-level governing board	State or local education agency	U.S. Department of Education
a) Selecting teachers for hire					
b) Firing teachers					
c) Establishing teachers' starting salaries					
d) Determining teachers' salary increases					
e) Formulating the school budget					
f) Deciding on budget allocations within the school					
g) Establishing student disciplinary policies					
h) Establishing student assessment policies					
 i) Approving students for admission to the school 					
j) Choosing which textbooks are used					
k) Determining course content					
 Deciding which courses are offered 					

Q25 Regarding your school, which of the following bodies exert a direct influence on decision making about staffing, budgeting, instructional content and assessment practices?

(Please check as many boxes as apply)

Area of influence

	Staffing	Budgeting	Instructional content	Assessment practices
a) State or federal education agencies (e.g., state education department)			$\square_{_1}$	
b) Local education agency or local school board				
c) School-level governing board				
d) Parent groups				
e) Teacher groups (e.g., staff association, curriculum committees, trade union)				
f) Student groups (e.g., student association, youth organization)				
g) External examination boards				

Q26 Below you can find statements about your management of this school. Please indicate the frequency of the following activities and behaviors in your school during the last school year.

		Never	Seldom	Quite often	Very often
a) I make sure that the profes development activities of t are in accordance with the goals of the school.	eachers				
b) I ensure that teachers work according to the school's educational goals.	5				
c) I observe instruction in cla	ssrooms.				
d) I use student performance develop the school's educa goals.					
e) I give teachers suggestions how they can improve their teaching.					
f) I monitor students' work.					
g) When a teacher has proble his/her classroom, I take th initiative to discuss matter	ne				
h) I inform teachers about possibilities for updating the knowledge and skills.	heir				

		Never	Seldom	Quite often	Very often
i)	I check to see whether classroom activities are in keeping with our educational goals.				
j)	I take exam results into account in decisions regarding curriculum development.			\square_3	
k)	I ensure that there is clarity concerning the responsibility for coordinating the curriculum.			\square_3	
1)	When a teacher brings up a classroom problem, we solve the problem together.				
m)	I pay attention to disruptive behavior in classrooms.			\square_3	
n)	I take over lessons from teachers who are unexpectedly absent.			\square_3	4
Q27	Approximately what percent school last year were eligible lunches through the National	le for fre	e- or reduc	ced-price	
	(Please write a number on the none.)	line. Wi	rite 0 (zero)	if there a	re
	Percentage of students eligible				

SECTION G: ABOUT YOU

Q28	Are	you	femal	le	or	ma	le	?
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Thank you very much for your cooperation in completing this questionnaire!